

ONI Marks Birthday of a Naval IT Pioneer

FROM OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Office of Naval Intelligence honored the memory of a naval officer, mathematician and educator whose trailblazing research led to major advances in the evolution of information technology.

In a ceremony 5 Dec., marking the 108th anniversary of Rear Admiral Grace Murray Hopper's birth, the men and women of ONI celebrated her long service and the many landmark contributions she made to ushering the U.S. Navy into the Information Age.

During her career as an educator and naval officer, RDML Hopper was at the forefront of computer development and innovation of programming language. Her accomplishments have resulted in "fully integrating the Navy's information functions, capabilities and resources to optimize decision making and maximizing warfighting effects, effectively changing C4ISR into a weapons system," said Captain Darryl F. Jackson, Commanding Officer of the Hopper Information Services Center, ONI's information technology hub.

Born in 1906, RDML Hopper graduated from Vassar College and received a PhD in Mathematics from Yale University in 1934. Commissioned in the Navy in 1944, she became involved in the development of the electronic computer. In the decades that followed, she continued her pioneering work in information technology as an educator and naval officer.

The ceremony's keynote speaker, Vice Admiral Jan Tighe, Commander, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and Commander, U.S. 10th Fleet, recalled meeting RDML Hopper while a midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy and being impressed by her ability to make difficult concepts understandable.

"The characteristic that I have always admired most is her ability to communicate complex or technical ideas to those outside of her field of study. She made computers interesting and understandable," VADM Tighe said.

She praised the men and women of the Hopper Center for their innovative work delivering mission systems to ONI, the fleet, and the Joint Warfighter. "You have been forging the future of how we're going to leverage the power of intelligence through innovations and information sciences and bring that to the decision maker for superior battlespace awareness," VADM Tighe said.

The Hopper Information Services Center is one of four centers of excellence that are distinct

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VICE ADMIRAL JAN TIGHE, COMMANDER, U.S. FLEET CYBER COMMAND/ U.S. 10TH FLEET, ADDRESSES THE ONI AUDIENCE DURING A CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE CAREER OF REAR ADMIRAL GRACE M. HOPPER.

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commands subordinate to ONI. Its mission is to provide mission-related technology and services to ONI, the fleet, and Joint Forces by enabling rapid delivery of intelligence to customers via an architecture that employs new technologies and applications.

Established in 1882, ONI is the nation's longest-serving intelligence agency.

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